B. R. R No 277 of 1934

PUNJAB CIVIL SECRETARIAT
8 AUG 1934
LAHORE

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF THE SALT DEPARTMENT

IN

BIHAR AND ORISSA

DURING THE YEAR

G10 (IV)

1933-34

15161

PATNA:
SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRINTING, BIHAR AND ORISSA.
1934.

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BOARD OF REVENUE, BIHAR AND ORISSA.

No. 25—11-3.

From

Rai Bahadur B. SARKAR,
Offg. Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
Bihar and Orissa,

To

The Secretary to the Government of
Bihar and Orissa, Revenue Department.

Dated Patna, the 24th July 1934.

Sir,

I am directed to submit the accompanying report received from the Commissioner of Excise and Salt, Bihar and Orissa, on the administration of the Salt Department in the province during the year 1933-34.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

B. SARKAR,

Offg. Secretary.

[MAXIMUM LIMIT—10 PAGES.]

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No. $\frac{4251\text{-E.}}{\text{XXIX—5 of 34-35.}}$

FROM

N. F. PECK, Esq., C.B.E., I.C.S.,

COMMISSIONER OF EXCISE AND SALT,

BIHAR AND ORISSA,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

BIHAR AND ORISSA.

Dated Patna, the 10th July 1934.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the administration of the Salt Department under my control in the province of Bihar and Orissa during the year 1933-34. My function as Commissioner of Salt is at present confined to preventive operations in the three saliferous districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri only.

CHAPTER I.—PRELIMINARY.

2. *Charge of the Department and inspection by Commissioner.*—I was in charge of the Department throughout the year. I visited the three saliferous districts during the year and discussed with the local officers various questions relating to the administration of the department.

3. *Salt Law.*—The Indian Salt Act XII of 1882 continued to be the Salt Law.

4. *Rate of duty.*—The rate of duty on foreign salt continued to be Re. 1-13-6 per maund including the additional import duty of Re. 0-4-6 and a surcharge of Re. 0-5-0 per maund. The rate of duty on Indian salt remained at Re. 1-9-0 per maund including the surcharge of Re. 0-5-0 per maund which was assessed on both Indian and foreign salt.

5. *Administrative changes.*—No administrative change of any importance was introduced during the year. The prohibitory orders of the Government of India against prosecuting people collecting or making salt in areas adjoining the villages in which they reside, for their domestic consumption or for retail sale under certain specified restrictions as defined in the Standing Order of the 21st July 1931, issued by the local Government, remained in force during the year.

CHAPTER II.—PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

6. *Number of cases.*—The number of cases and persons reported for offences against the Salt Act (Act XII of 1882) and the manner in which the cases were disposed of in 1932-33 and 1933-34 are shown in Appendix C. The concession granted for free manufacture and retail sale of salt was taken advantage of by the poorer classes in the saline area. It is reported to have proved beneficial to the flood-stricken people in the flood-affected parts of the saline area of the district of Puri.

In the district of Cuttack it is reported that no organized attempt was made on any considerable scale to manufacture salt in contravention of the terms of concession but three stray instances of fairly serious abuse of the concession came to notice. A boat load of contraband salt was seized by the Sub-Inspector of Police, Aul, and a number of people overstepped the limit of the

concession in the Balikuda police-station. One case of possession and transport in a cart of six bags of locally manufactured salt outside the saline area was reported by the police to the Magistrate and a case was instituted which ended in acquittal. The salt seized was confiscated and destroyed under the orders of the Commissioner, Orissa Division. The Collector of Puri reported that there were reasons to believe that the concession was abused in his district to a considerable extent. My recent enquiries incline me to believe that the concession has been abused wholesale in Puri and most probably in other areas in coastal Orissa also. In the saline area of the Kakatpur police-station of his district 212 centres were opened to manufacture salt in the form of a cottage industry scale by solar evaporation system. In my enquiries made in June 1934 I find this salt openly on sale in the grocers' shops in the interior of the district. Three cases of transport otherwise than on foot of locally manufactured salt were detected and the contraband salt weighing 64 maunds 2 seers was confiscated and destroyed under the order of the Divisional Commissioner.

No systematic violation of the concession was reported to be made in Balasore although there were said to have been cases of attempt by poor individuals to smuggle the non-duty paid salt in small quantities from the saline areas to non-saline areas with the object of making a little extra gain. The cases of abuse of the privilege by the inhabitants of saline and non-saline areas were dealt with promptly by the Collector. Some cases of attempt to export contraband salt to the Feudatory States were noticed in that district. The following is an extract from the report of the Collector of Balasore :—

"This year I had noticed some cases of attempted export in large quantities to the Feudatory States, particularly Mayurbhanj, by some merchants from the States who engaged coolies and Santals for this illicit trade. To stop this practice I issued orders for the seizure of bullocks and carts or boats along with the contraband salt in these cases under section 16 of the Indian Salt Act with a view to their confiscation under section 12. After one case was dealt with accordingly there has been no further recurrence of such offence so far. In the case of these outsider smugglers from the neighbouring States, seizure of bullocks and carts or boats used for conveying the salt is more effective than a fine which cannot be realized or imprisonment by which only the coolies and agents are punished and not the real culprits."

7. *Seizure of salt earth.*—Three hundred and sixty-one maunds and twenty-five seers of contraband salt were seized during the year under report in Balasore and Puri for the violation of the terms of concession against 286 maunds 26 seers and 12 chattacks seized in the preceding year.

8. *Result of cases.*—Only one case was instituted in the district of Cuttack which ended in acquittal against nil in the previous year.

9. *Fines and rewards.*—No fine was realized nor was any reward distributed during the year under report.

10. *Deputation of head-constables to accompany patrol parties.*—Two police head-constables were deputed in the district of Balasore to assist the Salt officers in house searches under section 18 of the Indian Salt Act. Their services were retained from 1st April 1933 to the 30th June 1933 and from 5th December 1933 to 31st March 1934.

CHAPTER III.—Prices of salt.

11. *Retail and wholesale prices.*—Appendix A compares for each district headquarters station the average wholesale prices per maund in 1933-34 with those for the preceding two years. The average of all districts was Rs. 3-0-0 per maund in 1933-34 against Rs. 3-1-2 per maund in 1932-33 and Rs. 2-14-3 per maund in 1931-32.

Appendix B shows the retail prices of salt in seers (of 80 tolas) in the principal marts of Bihar and Orissa at the close of each quarter of the year 1933-34.

CHAPTER IV.—Receipts.

12. *The receipts of the Salt Department have been shown in Appendix D.*—There was no realization on account of duty on salt and the receipts amounting to Rs. 611-13-0 represent some miscellaneous income and sale proceeds of old stores and materials, including a sum of Rs. 175, the sale proceeds of the boat "Ada" in the district of Cuttack.

CHAPTER V.—Miscellaneous.

13. *Assaults.*—Only one case of assault on the salt staff was reported from the district of Balasore. On the 24th May 1933 a salt patrol party while patrolling near Bagsahi in police-station Singla noticed a batch of persons carrying contraband salt on bullocks and on *bhars*. The salt party gave them a chase and one peon, who had gone ahead while seizing the contraband articles, was caught hold of and assaulted by some of the smugglers. The peon was, however, rescued by the party and the contraband salt and bullocks were seized with the help of some village chaukidars. The case was investigated by the police and 7 persons were sent up for trial under sections 147, 353 and 342, I. P. C. On trial 3 of the accused persons were found guilty and sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for 3 months each under sections 143 and 341, I. P. C. and the remaining persons were discharged for want of sufficient evidence.

14. *Trade in saltpetre.*—One hundred and eight saltpetre factories were licensed in Bihar during the year under report. They were under the control of the Commissioner of the Northern India Salt Revenue. Licenses for the manufacture of *khari* (sulphate of soda) and crude saltpetre, *rassi* and *sajji* have been discontinued since September 1931.

15. *Future organization of the salt preventive work.*—Under orders of the Government of India, Mr. T. Rajagopala Ayyanger, an Inspector of the Madras Salt Department visited the three saliferous districts during the year to investigate the subject of transfer of the salt preventive work from the local to the central Government. His report has not yet been received.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

N. F. PECK,

Commissioner of Excise and Salt,

Bihar and Orissa.

APPENDIX A.

Statement showing the average wholesale prices per maund of salt in the bazars of the headquarters of the districts of the province of Bihar and Orissa.

Divisions and districts.		Average for twelve months.		
		1931-32.	1932-33.	1933-34.
1		2	3	4
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Patna ...	Patna	2 13 4	3 3 11	3 4 5
	Gaya	3 1 0	3 3 2	3 4 7
	Shahabad	2 13 9	3 4 2	3 2 8
	Average ...	2 14 8	3 3 9	3 3 11
Tirhut ...	Saran	3 1 0	3 2 6	3 0 3
	Champaran ...	3 2 1	3 4 9	3 2 3
	Muzaffarpur ...	3 6 6	3 10 0	3 10 0
	Darbhanga ...	3 3 4	3 5 3	3 4 8
	Average ...	3 3 2	3 5 7	3 4 3
Bhagalpur ...	Monghyr ...	3 1 4	3 9 8	3 12 0
	Bhagalpur ...	2 11 0	3 1 5	2 11 0
	Purnea ...	2 15 8	3 1 10	3 2 9
	Santal Parganas ...	2 12 2	2 12 6	2 13 3
	Average ...	2 14 0	3 2 4	3 1 9
Orissa ...	Cuttack	2 8 0	2 11 4	2 8 0
	Balasore	2 12 8	3 0 6	2 14 5
	Angul	2 10 3	2 11 0	2 14 5
	Puri	2 4 2	2 6 3	2 6 9
	Sambalpur... ...	2 14 11	3 1 3	3 1 2
	Average ...	2 10 0	2 12 5	2 12 2
Chota Nagpur ...	Hazaribagh ...	3 1 9	3 3 5	2 15 8
	Ranchi	2 15 8	3 0 11	2 13 7
	Palamau	2 14 5	2 15 5	2 12 5
	Manbhum	2 10 11	2 12 1	2 9 10
	Singhbhum ...	2 13 11	2 15 1	2 12 7
	Average ...	2 14 6	2 15 9	2 12 10
Average of all districts ...		2 14 3	3 1 2	3 0 0

APPENDIX B.

Statement showing the retail prices of salt in seers (of 80 tolas) in the principal marts of Bihar and Orissa at the close of each quarter.

District.	Name of mart.	Retail prices of salt per rupee. On 30th June 1933.	On 30th September 1933.	On 31st December 1933.	On 31st March 1934.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Srs. chs.	Srs. chs.	Srs. chs.	Srs. chs.
Patna	Sadr	11 8	11 12	11 12	12 0
	Bihar	10 0	10 0	11 0	10 0
Gaya	Sadr	12 0	12 8	12 0	12 0
	Aurangabad	13 4	13 4	13 8	13 0
Shahabad	Sadr	12 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
	Buxar	13 0	13 0	13 0	12 0
Saran	Sadr	13 0	13 0	14 0	13 0
	Siwan	13 8	14 0	14 8	13 8
Champaran	Sadr	13 0	13 0	13 0	12 0
	Bettiah	12 0	13 4	13 0	11 4
Muzaffarpur... ...	Sadr	11 0	11 0	11 0	11 0
	Hajipur	12 0	12 0	12 0	11 0
	Sitamarhi	11 0	13 0	12 0	13 4
Darbhanga	Sadr	12 0	12 0	12 0	11 0
	Madhubani	13 0	13 8	12 0	11 0
Monghyr	Sadr	10 0	10 0	10 0	10 0
	Jamui	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Bhagalpur	Sadr	14 0	16 0	14 0	15 0
	Supaul	13 8	13 0	12 0	13 0
Purnea	Sadr	13 0	13 0	13 0	12 0
	Kishenganj	12 0	12 0	12 0	12 0
Santal Parganas ...	Sadr	13 8	14 0	14 0	13 0
	Deoghar	14 0	14 0	14 0	14 0
Cuttack	Sadr	16 0	16 0	16 0	16 0
	Jajpur	11 0	11 0	13 0	13 0
Balasore	Sadr	13 12	13 0	13 0	13 0
	Bhadrak	14 0	13 8	13 8	15 0
Angul	Sadr	11 0	14 11	13 10	11 0
	Phulbani	8 0	8 0	8 0	8 0
Puri	Sadr	17 1	15 12	15 12	14 0
	Khurda	17 0	16 0	17 0	17 0
Sambalpur	Sadr	12 6	12 6	12 6	12 6
	Bargarh				
Hazaribagh	Sadr	10 2	10 2	10 2	10 2
	... ...	13 0	14 0	14 0	13 0
	Giridih	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0
Ranchi	Sadr	13 8	13 0	13 0	11 0
Palamau	Daltonganj	14 8	14 8	14 8	14 0
Manbhum	Sadr (Purulia)	13 13	13 0	13 0	13 0
Singhbhum	Chaibassa	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0

APPENDIX C.

Statement showing the number of cases and persons reported for offences against the Salt Law (Act XII of 1882) and the manner in which the cases were disposed of during the year 1933-34.

District.	Undetected cases, scrapings and unsuccessful house searches. Pending on the 31st March 1933.	Reported during the year.	Disposed of during the year.	Pending at the close of the year.	Detected cases. Pending on the 31st March 1933.		Reported during the year.		Total.		Total released after warning.		Sent for trial.		Total disposed of.		Pending on the 31st March 1934.		Number of persons convicted.	Number of persons acquitted.	Total fines imposed.	Amount of fines and forfeitures realized.	Amount disbursed to informers and apprehenders.
1	2	3	4	5	6		7		8		9		10		11		12		13	14	15	16	17
					Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.	Cases.	Persons.					
																					Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cuttack ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Balasore ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puri ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total for 1933-34 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Total for 1932-33 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

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APPENDIX D.

Statement showing the receipts of the Salt Department.

—	1932-33.	1933-34.
1	2	3
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
III.—SALT.		
MISCELLANEOUS—		
Overtime fees	...	...
Miscellaneous	305 2 0	429 4 0
Saleproceeds of old stores and materials	82 0 0	182 9 0
Total ...	387 2 0	611 13 0

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